

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Old Chase School
6550 Ebenezer Road
BA-1852

The Chase School was constructed in 1859 as one of numerous school buildings erected as a result of educational reform. The land on which the Chase School is sited was owned by William Mansfield until June 1859, when it was purchased by the Baltimore County Board of Education. The Board of Education proceeded to erect the Chase School, utilizing a standardized wood frame, one-story plan.

The Chase School is located at the southwest corner of Ebenezer and Earl' roads. The triangular lot is open with mature trees forming a border at the west. Cross-shaped in plan, this one-story, wood frame building was constructed in two phases. The first phase, a schoolhouse erected in 1859, forms the western portion of the cross. Set on a random rubble foundation and clad in weatherboard, the modest 1859 building was covered with a front gable roof. In the 1890s, a wing was constructed perpendicular to the 1859 school. This wing, set at the original east elevation of the school, is Queen Anne in design. The 1890s addition is set on a brick foundation laid in 6-course American bond. A side gable roof covers the 1890s wing. The facade, the 5-bay east elevation, is symmetrical in design with the central entrance accented by an entry vestibule. The gable ends, typical of the Queen Anne style, are ornamented with diamond-shaped wood shingles laid in patterns. Interior brick chimneys laid in five-course American bond rise at either end of the 1890s addition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. BA-1852

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Old Chase School; St. John's Church

common/other name _____

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2. Location

=====

street & number 6550 Ebenezer Road not for publication _____
city or town Chase vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21027

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No ☒

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION

Sub: School

RELIGION

Religious Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Stone, Random Rubble

foundation Brick: 6-course American

roof Gable: Asphalt Shingles

walls Wood Frame: Vinyl Siding

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education
Religion

Period of Significance 1859-present

Significant Dates 1859
1890-1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baltimore County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Baltimore County,
Towson, Maryland.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 87,120 Square Feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Chase School at 6550 Ebenezer Road is designated as Parcel 0972 as indicated on Map 83, Grid 17.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Chase School has historically been associated with Parcel 0972 since its construction in 1859.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Andrea Bakewell Lowery, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date August 13, 1997
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

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12. Property Owner

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name St. John Apostolic Church
street & number 6550 Ebenezer Road telephone _____
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21220

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1852

Section 7 Page 1

Old Chase School
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

The Chase School is located at the southwest corner of Ebenezer and Earl' roads. The triangular lot is open with mature trees forming a border at the west. Cross-shaped in plan, this one-story, wood frame building was constructed in two phases. The first phase, a schoolhouse erected in 1859, forms the western portion of the cross. Set on a random rubble foundation and clad in weatherboard, the modest 1859 building was covered with a front gable roof. In the 1890s, a wing was constructed perpendicular to the 1859 school. This wing, set at the original east elevation of the school, is Queen Anne in design. The 1890s addition is set on a brick foundation laid in 6-course American bond. A side gable roof covers the 1890s wing. The facade, the 5-bay east elevation, is symmetrical in design with the central entrance accented by an entry vestibule. The gable ends, typical of the Queen Anne style, are ornamented with diamond-shaped wood shingles laid in patterns. Interior brick chimneys laid in five-course American bond rise at either end of the 1890s addition. A more contemporary one-story addition has since been constructed at the rear (west) of the building. An interior concrete block chimney rises at the center of the most recent addition.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The symmetrical, 5-bay, east elevation is marked by an entry vestibule in the center bay. At the east wall of the vestibule is a pair of flush metal doors. The original 4-light transom remains intact above these doors. Each of the remaining four bays at this elevation is marked with a 6/6 metal window. The gable end of the entry vestibule is ornamented with diamond-shaped wood shingles laid in a symmetrical pattern.

The north elevation consists of the gable end wall of the 1890s addition, the side wall of the original 1859 building, and the side wall of the smaller one-story addition. Within the 1890s section of the building is a group of four 6/6 metal windows. A second group of four 6/6 metal windows and a single 6/6 metal window are located within the original 1859 building. Also within the 1859 building is a single-leaf, flush metal door. A small metal window is located within the one-story addition. The gable end of the 1890s addition is ornamented with diamond-shaped wood shingles laid in a symmetrical pattern.

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The west elevation is mainly occupied by the one-story addition. The first story of the addition is marked with a single-leaf, metal door and five 6/6 metal windows.

The south elevation consists of the gable end wall of the 1890s addition, the side wall of the original 1859 building, and the side wall of the smaller one-story addition. Within the 1890s section of the building is a group of four 6/6 metal windows. Four evenly-spaced 6/6 metal windows pierce the wall of the 1859 building. An additional 6/6 metal window is located within the one-story addition at the west. The gable end of the 1890s addition is ornamented with diamond-shaped wood shingles laid in a symmetrical pattern.

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Old Chase School
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The Old Chase School, located at the western corner of Earl's Road and Ebenezer Road, reflects the development of the educational system in Baltimore County. By the end of the eighteenth century, Baltimore had several private schools that were open to paying students; however, only one free school. This free school was located on the Gunpowder River near Joppa. It closed with onset of the Revolutionary War. In early nineteenth century academies, schools focused on English, mathematics, science, and the classics; however, by 1825, a state system of schools was begun with the founding of the county's first primary schools. These schools were scattered across the county and began to take the place of private institutions. Although by 1850, there were sixty-two public schools. In 1856, the School Commissioners evaluated the school system and their buildings, finding that not only was there a paucity of buildings, but that those in use were in terrible condition. This intense survey resulted in the evaluation that of the 99 buildings in use "...many were housed in private dwellings, church basements, log houses, or old stone, brick, or frame buildings originally intended for other purposes."¹ Only two houses were in fact titled to the School Commission; 41 were titled to the trustees; 14 belonged to churches across the county; and 19 were owned privately. The survey found that:

It is time a county like ours should own the houses in which our schools are conducted. The day is not distant when the county will contain a population of fifty thousand, and be assessed at twenty-five millions of dollars.²

The taxes assessed, 8 cents per \$100, were insufficient to do more than operate the schools, leaving no funds for the erection or repair of schoolhouses. Furthermore, the schools were unevenly distributed across the county. In 1858, both these problems were solved by an act authorizing the County Commissioners to levy a tax that would be used to divide Baltimore County into school districts, and to erect additional schoolhouses. Although the levy was strongly contested, the opposition was eventually overcome, and in the spring of 1859, the county was divided into 85 school districts.

¹ Amy C. Crewe. *No Backward Step was Taken*. Baltimore County, MD: Teachers Association of Baltimore Co., MD, 22.

² Ibid.

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The Chase School, erected in 1859, appears to be one of the new school buildings that resulted from this reform of the educational system. The land on which the Chase School is sited was owned by William Mansfield until June 1859, when it was purchased by the Baltimore County Board of Education. The Board of Education proceeded to erect the Chase School, utilizing a standardized wood frame, one-story plan. Set on a random rubble stone foundation and clad in weatherboard, the modest one-room building was covered with a front gable roof. Windows pierced the side walls affording light and ventilation. This was typical of the schoolhouses constructed under building campaign of the late 1850s:

The houses erected in the first building program in the county were not too commodious -- for example, "24 x 24 feet; 18 x 28 feet, with a porch, 24 x 36 feet with a vestibule," etc. -- but they were palatial compared to those in use previously and their erection was a real achievement. As the Board stated, "The general design of the houses is simple, but in appearance they are neat and comfortable, and some of them are ornaments to the neighborhoods. Much attention has been paid to lighting and ventilation. These houses will afford to our children facilities for education greatly superior to any that have heretofore existed in Baltimore County."³

The Baltimore County School system continued to flourish, as recorded in the Annual Report of the Board of School Commissioners from 1879-1880. At that time, the present 15th district (then the 12th district) was exclusively a farming region and was anticipated to remain so. However, the school population continued to grow, with the total number of students in the county rising from 83,334 in 1880 to 90,755 in 1900. This prompted further building campaigns, with the construction of more than thirty new school buildings. Due to its age and continued use, the Chase School was one of the many extant buildings requiring renovations. The schoolhouse was enlarged with an addition at the east end in the 1890s. This addition, Queen Anne in style, was set at the original east elevation of the school. The 1890s addition is set on a brick foundation laid in 6-course American bond, and a side gable roof

³ Ibid, 24.

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covers the building. The resulting form, a symmetrical cross-shaped building with a projecting entrance vestibule, is typical of the schoolhouses of the latter part of the 19th century.

The building continued to be owned by the Board of Education and operated as a school until 1940, when the Chase Consolidated School opened. At that time, Ebenezer Methodist Church, located across Earl's Road from the Chase School, acquired the property. The church used the building as a Sunday school until they erected their own educational building in 1965. Afterwards, the former school building was mainly used for storage. In 1994, the property was sold to the St. John Apostolic Church. Currently referred to as St. John's Church, the school building serves the community as a meeting hall and church.

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National Register Evaluation:

Constructed in 1859, the Old Chase School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Chase School is National Register-eligible as it meets Criteria A and C. The Chase School relates to significant events in American history (Criterion A). As one of the first schools constructed in response to the 1858 Act authorizing the County Commissioners to levy a tax that would be used to divide Baltimore County into School Districts and to erect schoolhouses, the Chase School is a significant representation of the development of the educational system in Baltimore County.

The Chase School is eligible under Criterion C, architectural significance, as an important surviving example of one of Baltimore County's schools constructed in response to the reform of its early educational system, and deplorable state of its existing buildings.

Typical of these schoolhouses, the standardized, one-story, wood frame plan was modest, and windows pierced the side walls affording light and ventilation. Although the original entrance has been obscured by an 1890s addition, the original school block is visible today. The construction of the 1890s Queen Anne-style wing enhances rather than detracts from the building's architectural significance, reflecting its evolution as a school house in Baltimore County, synthesizing the traditional school house form of the mid-19th century with that of the late-19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended X Not Recommended _____

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] Date: 11/19/97

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 3/17/00

[Handwritten signature]

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county and state

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1814-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and Community Planning
Social
Religion

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): EDUCATION/School
RELIGION/Religious Facility

Known Design Source: Unknown

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name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

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Chain of Title:

June 23, 1859: William Mansfield to Board of Education
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber GHC 27 Folio 195

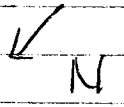
April 3, 1940: Board of Education to Trustees of Ebenezer
Methodist Episcopal Church
Property vested to Board of Education until
June 1, 1916
Chapter 506, Acts of General Assembly of
Maryland
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber CWB Jr. 1102 Folio 4

August 23, 1994: Trustees of Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
to St. John Apostolic Church
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 10715 Folio 155

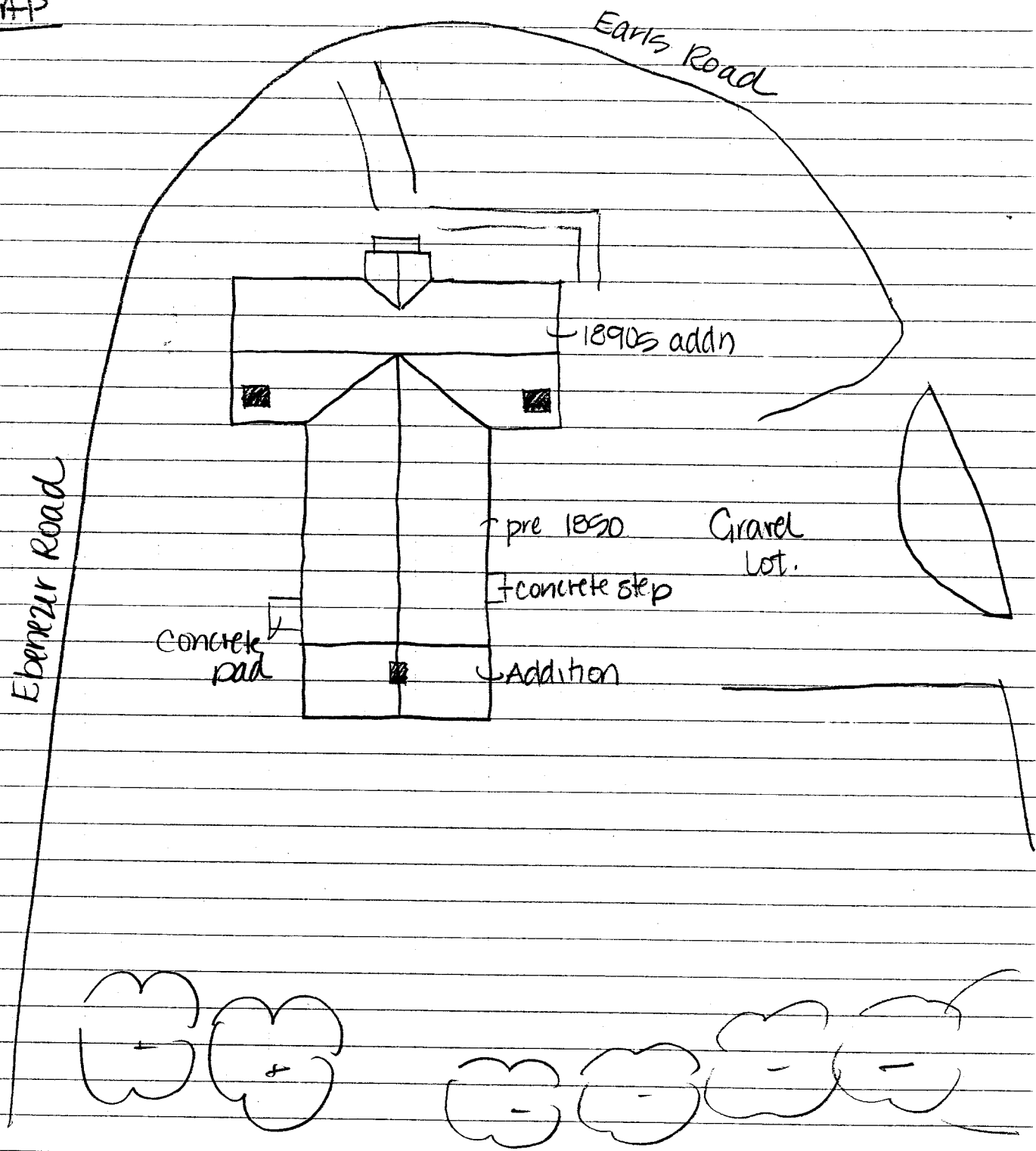
St Johns Church of God in Jesus Christ
6550 Ebenezer Rd.
Chase, MD
Baltimore County

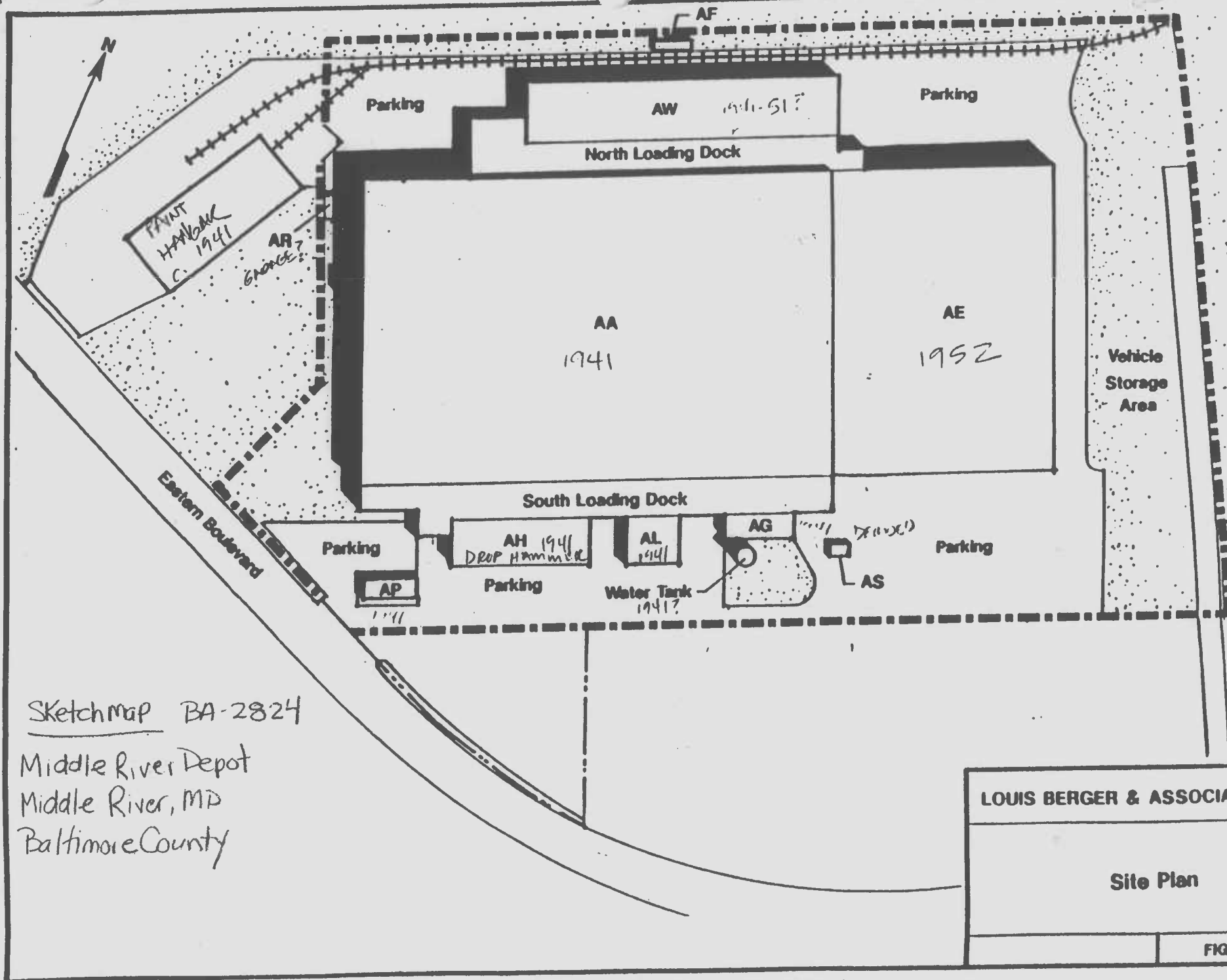
(Apostolic)

BA-1852

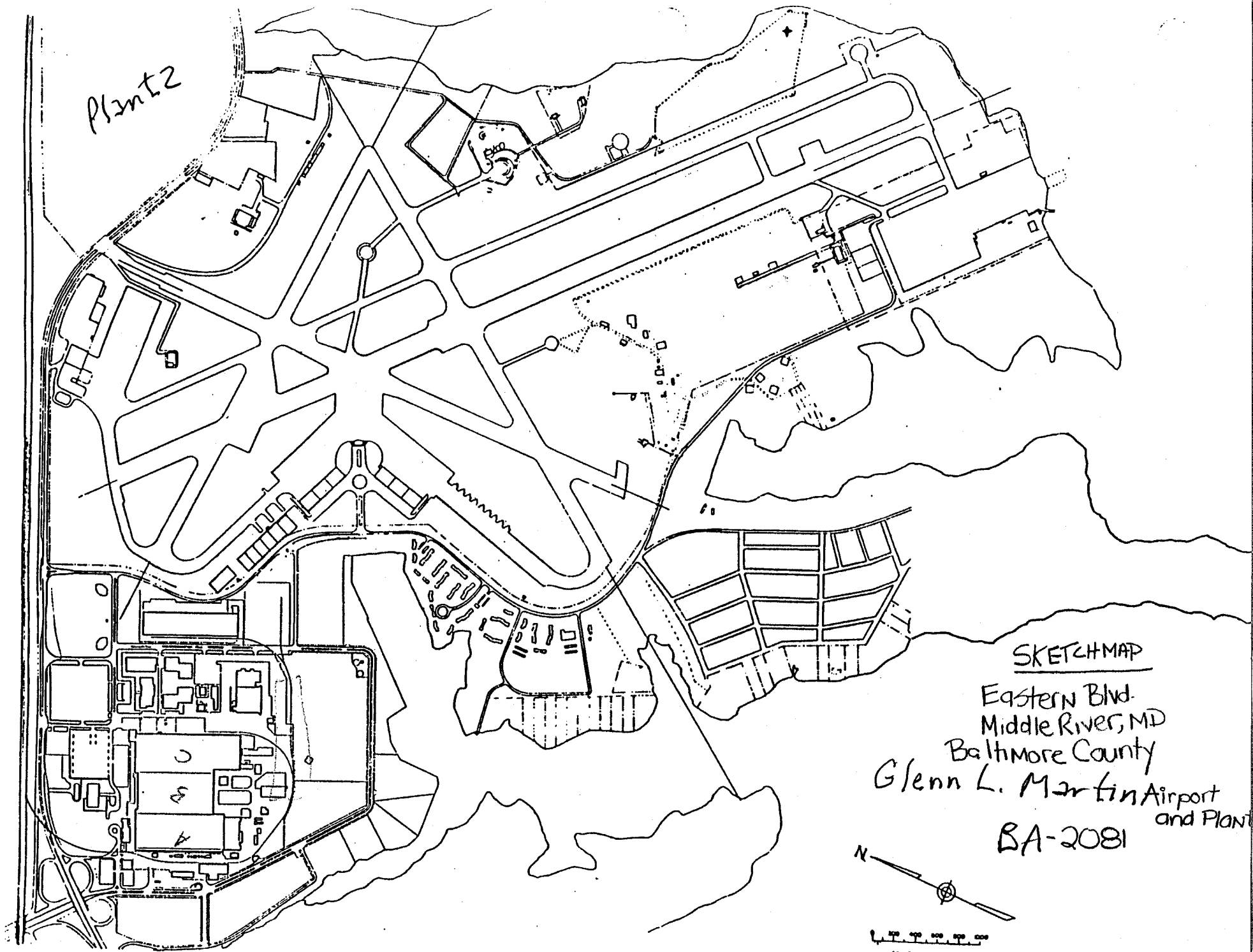


SKETCH MAP



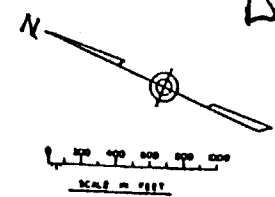


Plant 2

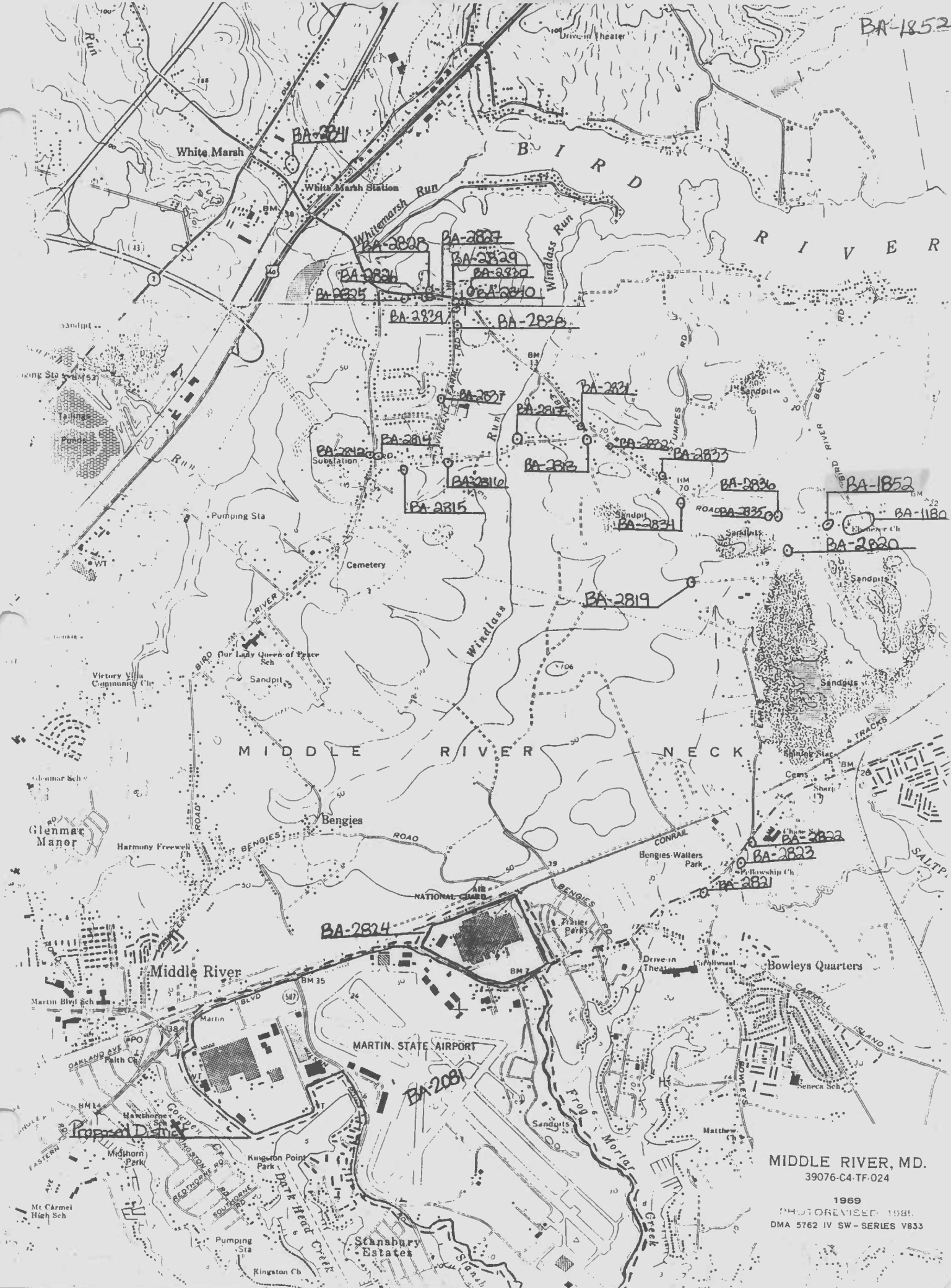


SKETCHMAP

Eastern Blvd.
Middle River, MD
Baltimore County
Glenn L. Martin Airport
and Plant
BA-2081



BA-1852



MIDDLE RIVER, MD.
39076-C4-TF-024

1969
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5762 IV SW - SERIES V833



BA-1852
CHASE SCHOOL
CHASE, MD
TRACERIES
AUGUST 1997
MARYLAND SHPO
EAST ELEVATION
1 OF 4



BA-1852
CHASE SCHOOL
CHASE, MD
TRACERIES
AUGUST 1997
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
2 OF 4



BA-1852
CHASE SCHOOL
CHASE, MD
TRACERIES
AUGUST 1997
MARYLAND SHPO
EAST ELEVATION
3 OF 4



BA-1852

CHASE SCHOOL

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

4 OF 4